



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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AM: D800363-0168

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-14 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-10 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 SMS-01 ACDA-12
OCT-02 SY-05 SYE-00 ANAE-00 A-02 /117 W
-----115206 291500Z /50

O 291319Z JUL 80

FM AMEMBASSY KABL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7901

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY Dacca

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR VAHGENGE GE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MB

REVIEWED BY Lfm Kelly DATE 8/14/89

() UNCLASSIFIED () CONFIDENTIAL
() SECRET () DECLASSIFY in PART
() SENSITIVE () Non-responsive info.

FOR HQ or PA exemptions

TS authority to:

() CLASSIFY to () OADR
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

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KARACHI ALSO FOR RSS; CINCEUR AND CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 12065: GDS 7/29/86 (GRIFFIN, GEORGE G. B.) OR-M

TAGS: ASEC PDIP PEPR PINS PINT AF

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

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REF: KABL 2203 ✓

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1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: CONFLICTING REPORTS FILTERING IN FROM THREE PROVINCES SOUTH OF KABUL INDICATE THAT THE SOVIETS MAY BE FIGHTING SOME ELEMENTS OF A DIVISION OF THE AFGHAN ARMY BUT THAT OTHER UNITS ARE COOPERATING AGAINST INSURGENTS. HEAVY AIR TRAFFIC HAS CONTINUED TO AND FROM THAT GENERAL AREA, INDICATING THAT THE SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO COPE WITH AN UNEXPECTED PROBLEM, THE EXTENT OF WHICH IS UNCLEAR. WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS OF THE ASSASSINATION OF SEVERAL SOVIETS IN KABUL, AND SECURITY REMAINS TIGHT IN THE CITY. END SUMMARY.

3. THE EMBASSY IS RECEIVING NUMEROUS AND OFTEN CONFLICTING REPORTS OF WHAT IS OR IS NOT HAPPENING TO THE SOUTH OF KABUL. IN GHAZNI, WARDAK AND LOGAR PROVINCES. ONE VERSION INDICATES THAT EARLIER RUMORS OF A BATTLE BETWEEN THE ENTIRE AFGHAN 14TH DIVISION AT GHAZNI AND SOVIET FORCES WERE NOT ACCURATE. HOWEVER, MOST ACCOUNTS AGREE THAT SOME 14TH DIVISION OFFICERS WERE ANGERED BY THE REMOVAL OF THEIR COMMANDER, AND REFUSED TO ACCEPT HIS SUCCESSOR, BKPINGZPJAVE ALLOWED A THIRD OFFICER TO BECOME THEIR NEW COMMANDER. SEVERAL SOURCES CLAIM THAT MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE 14TH DIVISION DEFECTED TO THE INSURGENTS.

4. OTHER CONTACTS REPORTED THAT A LARGE FORCE OF BOTH SOVIET AND AFGHAN TROOPS ASSISTED BY SOVIET HELICOPTERS AND JET BOMBERS HAVE BEGUN ANTI-INSURGENT OPERATIONS IN WARDAK. ONE ALLEGED THAT OVER 150 VILLAGERS WERE KILLED ON ONE DAY NEAR TANGI AT PLACES NAMED KHARMAI, ZARIN, HASAN KHEL AND ZAMUCH. RESISTANCE HIDEOUTS WERE ALSO ATTACKED NEAR BAND-I-CHAK AND
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JEGATHU. A FIERCE BATTLE WAS SAID TO BE RAGING ON JULY 26 AT A DEFILE CALLED BOOM IN CHAK MOLESWALI AT THE EASTERN ENTRANCE TO THE HAZARAJAT. HE ADDED THAT THE KABUL-KANDAHAR ROAD WAS DECLARED "SAFE" BY THE DRA LATE LAST WEEK. ANOTHER CONTACT REPORTED VAGUE STORIES OF FIGHTING IN LOGAR PROVINCES ON JULY 27.

5. HEAVY HELICOPTER TRAFFIC HAS CONTINUED TO FLOW IN AND OUT OF KABUL AIRPORT JULY 26 AND 29. MILITARY ROAD CONVOYS HAVE ALSO PASSED THE EMBASSY WITH GREATER FREQUENCY, INCLUDING SOME T-62 SOVIET TANKS ON TRANSPORTERS HEADING TOWARD JALALABAD.

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AIR TRANSPORT ACTIVITY HAS REMAINED AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL. WHILE WE CANNOT SEE WHAT THESE ELEMENTS ARE DOING OUTSIDE KABUL, THE ACTIVITY OF THE MI-24 HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS INDICATES THAT IT IS MORE THAN JUST PREPARATION FOR A POST-OLYMPIC OFFENSIVE AGAINST RESISTANCE STRONGHOLDS. IT MAY BE THAT IN SOME AREAS AT LEAST THE SOVIETS HAVE DECIDED NOT TO WAIT FOR THE MOSCOW GAMES TO FINISH.

6. SEVERAL INFORMANTS HAVE DESCRIBED TO US THE KILLING OF AS MANY AS SIX SOVIETS IN KABUL SINCE JULY 26. HOWEVER, THE ACCOUNTS DIFFER AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THE ALLEGED VICTIMS AND INDIVIDUAL SOVIETS CAN BE SEEN ON FOOT IN VARIOUS PARTS OF TOWN, MOVING WITH NO APPARENT CONCERN. SOVIET TROOPS RIDING ABOUT THE CITY, MOREOVER, ARE WEARING FATIGUES AND SEEM RELAXED. AFGHAN POLICE HAVE BEGUN RANDOM SEARCHES OF AUTOMOBILES AND CHECKS ON IDENTITY CARDS.

7. K HAVE HEARD NO REPORTS OF THE ASSASSINATION OF AFGHAN POLITICAL FIGURES IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, ALTHOUGH ONE SOURCE MAKING THE ROUNDS REPEATEDLY IS THAT EDUCATION MINISTER ANAHITA RATEHZAD WAS SLIGHTLY INJURED BY FLYING GLASS WHEN HER CAR WAS MACHINE GUNNED LAST WEEK. (IN HER PUBLIC APPEARANCES, NO INJURIES HAVE BEEN VISIBLE.) ONE SOURCE MAINTAINED THAT NANGRAHAR GOVERNOR SHEHLADER, A KHALQI, WAS BROUGHT TO KABUL AND ARRESTED TWO DAYS AGO BECAUSE OF HIS ANTI-KARNAL
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STATEMENTS. THE SOURCE MAY HAVE PICKED UP THE STORY FROM RADIO PAKISTAN, WHICH IS AVIDLY FOLLOWED HERE DESPITE SOME INTERFERENCE FROM THE STRONGER SIGNALS OF RADIO KABUL.
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